

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR § 1.83(a) as failing to show a ball lens as claimed by Applicants. Applicants have amended the claims such that they now read as a ½ ball lens, and not a ball lens. Because the drawings depict a ½ ball lens, the drawings now show every feature of the claimed invention as required by 37 CFR § 1.83(a), thus obviating the Examiner's objection.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the typographical error contained in the specification on line 24 of page 2. Applicants have amended the specification such that the typographical error no longer exists, thus obviating the Examiner's objections to the specification.

Applicants have also amended the specification to recite that highly-curved optical element 12 can be a ½ ball lens. This is not new matter. The specification, as originally filed, indicated that the highly-curved optical element 12 could be a ball lens, and Applicants further disclosed a ½ ball lens in the drawings at Fig. 2. Still further, Applicants stated that the lens was preferably "rotationally symmetric about the optical axis and the stop is at the center", (see line 7 of Page 6).

In paragraph 18 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 15 would be allowable if written in independent form and included all limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten independent claims 1 and 11 such that they now contain all limitations of claims 5 and 15, as well as all limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims, respectively. As such, independent claims 1 and 11 are now allowable. Dependent claims of original claims 1 and 11 have been canceled or otherwise amended as appropriate such that they now properly depend on amended claims 1 and 11 and/or claim a ½ ball lens rather than a ball lens as previously stated. As such, dependent 2, 3, 6-10, 12, 13, and 16-20 are now allowable since they depend on claims 1 and 11, which are also now allowable.

New claims 21-29 have been added to avoid the prior art cited by the Examiner. Independent claim 21 contains language relating to a plurality of optical fibers for conveying images to an image sensor, where the "optical fibers are more densely concentrated at the center of the image sensor." Because none of the prior art cited by the examiner discloses or even hints at a plurality of optical fibers that are more densely concentrated at the center of an image sensor, new independent claim 21 is thus allowable over the prior art. Section 2143.03 of the MPEP states that "[t]o establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974)". Because none of Korein, Ho, Migliaccio, or Mukherjee et al. disclose all elements of new claim 21, claim 21 is thus allowable over the prior art.

Dependent claims 22-29 depend on claim 21, and because claim 21 is allowable over the prior art, new claims 22-29 are also allowable over the prior art.

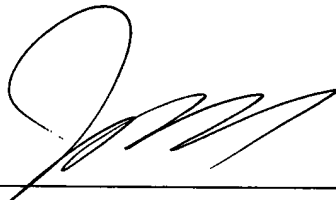
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been avoided and/or traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

A check for additional claim fees is attached. Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213.

Respectfully submitted,

By:



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